

COMMITTEE: Housing Poverty Committee

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2009

PERSON PRESIDING: Chris McCarthy - NAHFH

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pat Clark - MDHA
Paul Johnson – The Housing Fund
Kay Bowers – New Level CDC
Bernice Spann – NAHFH
Beth Shinn – Vanderbilt- Peabody
Adriane Harris – MDHA
Fredrikha Maxwell – Community volunteer
Mary McLennan – THDA
Scott Payne – 211TN
Don Beisswenger- Housing Fund
Mark Wright – BAHFH
Lisa Gallon – Metro Action

MEETING PURPOSE:

Discussion of action items assigned at the January 30, 2009 meeting.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Discussion: The members in attendance agreed to focus on the following actions:

Action (1) – Identify those in need of housing and what the need is. Establish a process for updating this need analysis on a regular basis.

United Ways' 211

- Scott Payne of 211TN gave the committee an overview of the 211TN website.
 - Links into the Resource House database
 - The entire state of TN is covered by 211
 - 31% of callers are relate to housing concerns (17% utilities 24% housing general)
 - 60% of the callers are from Davidson County
 - 211 information can be accessed via website or by calling operators
 - 211 does identify need but no data is collected on individuals
 - United Way would be open to surveying callers regarding housing
 - Phone operators have:
 - BS degrees and 40 hours of crisis training
 - The website is maintained in Nashville
 - Made 195,000 referrals (60% Davidson Cty of 117,000) for 153 counties
 - Can't tell how many calls are repeat calls.
 - Mark and Chris to look at 211 database and Mark to estimate the cost of adding the survey component to 211 related to housing and to develop set of questions that might be asked that would help to do the following:
 - Identify the need by category of housing related questions
 - Identify information about the person that is calling (very general information)

THDA's Housing Resource

- Mary McLennan of THDA gave the committee an overview of the THDA housing resource database.
 - The website address is tnhousingresource.org
 - Schedule for April implementation this is a web-based system
 - Sidebar links to HUD, USDA, financial institutions and etc.
 - Can search by service, locality, counseling and down payment assistance.
 - Automatically contacts social service agencies each month for updates.
 - Can determine number of hits and watch they are searching for.
 - Also has a call center with operators that speak Spanish and English the call center is not available to take surveys.
 - Over 200 organizations do business with the organization.
 - An idea was brought up to link TN Housing Resource with 211 since 211 would be more easily accessed by those not having access to the web.

Pat Clark

- Presented an overview of her action items (see attachment):
 - There are currently 35 vacancies out of thousands of MDHA public housing units
 - Each site has its own waiting list
 - The total wait list for all MDHA- owned public housing units is 3,000.
 - Public housing is not a viable resource for a person who needs housing right now.
 - MDHA has 3,500 public housing units and 125 fair market units.
 - Section 8 – Over 6,000 units and over 3,500 on the waiting list
 - MDHA vouchers move with the client
 - HUD vouchers can only be used at the voucher site

Kay Bowers

- Brought in Scott Payne of 211 and Mary McLennan of THDA to present some of her findings (see above).
 - Tax credit properties are required to have a certain number of low income people.
 - THDA has a listing of tax credit properties and Kay will work with Mary to get this information to the committee for the March meeting.

Beth Shinn

- Presented information from (see attachments)
 - Homeless count at the beginning of February from Suzie Tolmie MDHA's homeless coordinator.
 - Weather low of 15 cloudy, wind
 - Outdoors – 398
 - In shelters- 1,759
 - Total 2,157
 - Vulnerability Index Fact Sheet (see attachment)
 - Adrian Harris will get the county error rate from Suzie
 - See Homeless Children in Schools article (see attachment)

Bill Coke

- Sent in his capacity findings from Urban Housing Solutions (see attachment).
- Basically there is no open capacity for affordable housing builders in Nashville.

Action Item 3 – Develop a Process and Outreach Program to Link those in Need with Housing Service Providers

Lisa Gallon

- Presented her information on Access Miami (see attachment)
- Submitted updated Affordable Housing spreadsheet.
 - Called all agencies on the sheet for information on capacity and if they are still in business.

Other information:

- People should never pay more than 30% of their income for housing
- People on Section 8 waiting list are not on due to lack of units but due to lack of funding
- One person can be on 3 waiting lists at one time.

Actions for next meeting:

- Scott Payne – What would be the possibility of expanding 211 to include a survey and tabulation of needs analysis of callers for housing. If funded, how might this survey work?
- Chris and Mark – to have Glynda pull all information regarding housing off the 211 site to look to come up with survey questions for callers that would help classify the need.
- Scott Payne – define how the survey process for inquirers into the 211 system might work
- Mark - estimate 211 survey system cost and requirements
- Bernice to compare housing provider list to 211 database and identify gaps or omissions in information (names, addresses, websites, numbers, category, etc.)
- Chris – look at ways to market and public awareness campaign for 211
- Scott - investigate how THDA website might link into 211
- Beth Shinn - will contact Susie Saegert regarding information that Mick has gathered related to his affordable housing research.
- Mark – contact Doug Perkins
- Lisa Gallon – find out the cost of the Access Miami project setup and on going cost.

Next meeting – Review above action items and Bernice update classification in spreadsheets sort two ways by agency and by classification. Review April Outcomes. Bernice print out other committee action items for review. Action item budgets to be discussed.

Next meeting:

March 27, @ 3:30 at Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity